

Applic. No.: 10/694,601
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 24, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application.

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Fischer et al. (US Pat. No. 6,659,355 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 5 call for, inter alia:

an intermediate carrier forming a functional component of said keypad and serving as a carrier for said additional component.

The object of the invention of the instant application is to simplify the integration of a chip card keypad (3) and an additional component (7) during installation into a card body (1) of a chip card. It therefore must be noted that the

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electric components are not to be integrated individually into the chip card, but instead they are to be applied on a chip card module that represents a subassembly, which is then to be inserted as a whole into the card body.

The chip card module thereby utilizes an intermediate carrier (2), which is a functional component of the chip card keypad. The further additional components are also to be applied electrically on the intermediate carrier. The electrical connection of the components with each other is realized via the intermediate carrier.

In other words, a known keypad as described on page 2, first paragraph of the specification of the instant application is modified such that the base sheet is increased as compared to the covering sheet and switching sheet so that the base sheet can carry the at least one additional component as an intermediate carrier. This special configuration of the chip card keypad makes it possible to do without a further carrier on which the keypad and the additional components would commonly be marked. In doing so, the thickness of the chip card module and thus the thickness of the chip card in its entirety, can be reduced. A further advantage lies in that, independent of the production of the card body, all electrical components can be applied on the intermediate carrier in

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advance, electrically connected, and tested for their functionality.

In contrast, Fischer et al. describe a chip card where all electrical components (chip module, keypad, display) are inserted into the multi-layer card body (seven layers in all) as an individual component (see col. 2, line 59, to col. 3, line 28). The electrical connection between the individual components thereby takes place via one of the seven layers, which is the so-called conductor carrier layer 8. Fischer et al. do not mention anywhere that the conductor carrier layer 8 forms a functional component of the keypad 4. Instead, in Fischer et al. the keypad 4 is inserted into a milled recess and electrically connected with the other components via conductor tracks, which are present on the conductor carrier layer. It is clear that the keypad has an electrical connection to other components.

The invention of the instant application, however, lies in that a commercial sheet keypad is modified such that a conventional contacting, such as described in Fischer et al., can be avoided.

The invention of the instant application thus differs from Fischer et al. in that Fischer et al. do not describe a chip

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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308



For Applicant

YC

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101